

followed ended with the U.S. military intervention that eventually fostered a classic tripartite constitutional government, with multiple competing political parties alternating in power. Moreover, the jobs-creating business sector and the labor movement thrive. A year ago, Dominicans elected their eighth post-Trujillo president: successful businessman Luis Abinader (born in 1967), D.R.'s first chief executive born after Trujillo's downfall.

All this sharply contrasts with socialist Cuba, a stagnant, closed society controlled by the Castro family and its hand-picked, mostly military, non-elected cronies still chanting discredited Marxist slogans. True, the Castros counted on initial popular support, but it soon vanished as they hijacked the liberal-inspired anti-Batista political rebellion and turned Cuba into a nightmarish dystopia. While the D.R. steered toward the Open Society ideal, Cuba rushed in the opposite direction with the Castros' tropical version of the failed Soviet-Russian mold.

Dictatorships of all genres customarily attract foreign apologists who, comfortably from abroad, extol alleged relative achievements. Trujillo, who even received an honorary doctorate from a U.S. university, was praised by the same New York Times that characteristically propagates ridiculous excuses for Cuba's oppressors. Likewise, the academic world brims with fake-news reports intent on laundering the Castros' fiascos, while also defaming Cuban-Americans.

As we salute Dominicans upon their celebrating six decades free of despotism, one should commiserate with the Cuban people, still suffering three generations of anachronic totalitarianism; in fact, so far over twice as long as Trujillo's dictatorship lasted.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANCIS COLLINS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to ask the Senate to join me in recognizing the incredible career of Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, as he prepares to step down as Director and return to his research laboratory at the National Human Genome Research Institute, NHGRI.

NIH is the crown jewel of our Nation's and the world's biomedical infrastructure. The Institute touches all of our lives through its research, which deepens our understanding of the natural world and produces groundbreaking medicines and lifesaving treatments for diseases. Like all Marylanders, I am proud that NIH is headquartered in Bethesda and has several satellite campuses throughout the State.

Dr. Collins' career with NIH has spanned more than three decades. A physician-geneticist, Dr. Collins served as the director of the National Human Genome Research Institute from 1993 to 2008. In this work, he led the Human Genome Project, which in April 2003 completed sequencing the human DNA instruction book. The sequencing of the 3 billion DNA letters that make up the human genetic "instruction book" has been instrumental in uncovering the role that the genome plays in human health and disease and marshaling in a new era of medicine. For this

work, Dr. Collins deservedly received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2007.

Dr. Collins is the longest serving, Presidentially appointed NIH Director, having served as the 16th Director of NIH under three U.S. Presidents over more than 12 years. Building on his groundbreaking research in genetics, Dr. Collins has led the Institutes in the effort to develop a greater understanding of medicine and pursue innovations in diagnoses and treatments.

This includes the "All of Us" program, which is a precision medicine initiative that in 2018 began gathering the health data of 1 million participants to develop individualized healthcare that enables us to better treat and prevent disease. Dr. Collins' leadership has similarly led to incredible advancements in understanding neurological conditions. The Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies—BRAIN—Initiative aims to develop revolutionary pictures of the brain to enable researchers to find new ways to treat, cure, and even prevent neurological disorders that affect millions of Americans.

Dr. Collins' tenure has included leading the fight to eradicate cancer under the Cancer Moonshot Initiative. This generational effort aims to improve our ability to prevent cancer or detect it at an earlier stage and develop more effective therapies to treat it. To date, over \$1 billion in Moonshot funding has made incredible progress through support of over 240 research projects across more than 70 cancer initiatives.

Last but certainly not least, Dr. Collins' leadership as NIH Director has witnessed one of the toughest and most challenging tests for the Institutes: the COVID-19 pandemic. Through Dr. Collins' commitment to adhering to the science and steadfast leadership, the NIH has played an historic role in shepherding the development of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and all manner of medical resources toward COVID-19 response efforts. Though the Omicron variant is troubling and the pandemic rages in many parts of the world, we are better prepared to respond and persevere against the COVID-19 pandemic because Dr. Collins played a principal role in leading our national biomedical response efforts.

Dr. Collins is not just a scientist. He is also an avid guitarist and motorcyclist. And his book, "The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief", is one of the most intellectually rigorous and compelling efforts to reconcile the worlds of science and faith.

I ask the Senate, my fellow Marylanders, and a grateful Nation to join me in recognizing the career of an extraordinary physician-geneticist, Dr. Francis Collins. We are incredibly grateful for his leadership and stewardship of NIH and wish him a happy and well-deserved return to his research laboratory.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LOUIS UCCELLINI

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the upcoming retirement on January 1, 2022, of a true public servant and leader, Dr. Louis Uccellini, Director of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service.

Louis is the epitome of a dedicated civil servant, having spent the past 43 years of his career at both NOAA and NASA contributing to and leading the maturation and advancement of our Nation's weather prediction capabilities. Put simply, there is no aspect of today's weather forecast that Dr. Uccellini hasn't advanced during his storied career.

But Louis' contributions span far beyond science. Perhaps most notably, and certainly most visible to the public, are the organizational changes Louis has made to National Weather Service since becoming Director in 2013. The establishment and development of the Weather-Ready Nation program, a paradigm shift that refocused the entire NWS staff and mission, now enables forecasters to use weather information to deliver Impact-based Decision Support Services to emergency managers, which is empowering local officials to help citizens be ready, responsive and resilient to weather events. This is the real purpose of the weather forecast and is allowing the National Weather Service to better perform its mission of saving lives and protecting property.

Louis' mark on the National Weather Service will undoubtedly be felt for many years to come. On behalf of my constituents in Kansas and a grateful nation, I personally thank Dr. Louis Uccellini for his service to our Nation; wish him and his wife, Susan, well in retirement; and as Louis would say, "I'll leave it at that."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LEVILLE STEPHENS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of World War II veteran Leville Stephens.

I am proud to celebrate this milestone and honor his service and sacrifice in our Nation's uniform.

Mr. Stephens answered the call to serve. He trained at Fort Huachuca in Arizona, one of 30,000 African-American soldiers who prepared for battle at this location before deploying overseas. He was assigned to the 93rd Infantry Division and shipped to the Pacific theater.

As a private first class, Mr. Stephens served in a number of dangerous locations during the war, including the Philippines, New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands. He was on his way to Japan when the United States dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, bringing about the Japanese surrender.

Mr. Stephens described his mindset while in uniform as simply "doing his

duty as a soldier.” He believed his job was to follow his orders and do what needed to be done. That attitude, shared by so many of his fellow soldiers among the Greatest Generation, helped the United States achieve victory and secure a desperately needed peace.

He is rightfully proud of his service, alongside his family and friends among whom he also inspires admiration and gratitude by being a devoted husband to his wife Hattie and a dutiful father and grandfather.

Mr. Stephens is a true American hero whose determination and dedication helped change the course of history. He answered his country's call to arms with courage, bravery, and honor. Our Nation owes him a debt of gratitude for his efforts to defend the freedoms we hold dear and defeat tyranny around the globe.

I am honored to recognize his serve and sacrifice, and wish him a very special and wonderful 100th birthday.●

RECOGNIZING THE PANCAKE PANTRY

● Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 60th anniversary and the opening of a new location of the legendary Pancake Pantry in Nashville.

On December 13, the Pancake Pantry, a Nashville staple and landmark restaurant, will open a second location to offer its famous varieties of pancakes as well as begin a partnership with the Nashville Predators Foundation to support local communities.

Since 1961, this iconic restaurant has brightened the mornings of both tourists and residents of the Music City and will now partner with the Nashville Predators Foundation to give back to the community.

Through grants and partnerships directed towards the educational, health, and social needs of Middle Tennesseans, the Pancake Pantry is committed to supporting the local community.

To show their support, special “Nashville Predator” pancakes will be available between January 1 and February 28, 2022, and for each order sold, the Pancake Pantry will make a monetary donation to the Nashville Predators Foundation.

Established on August 18, 2009, the Nashville Predators Foundation strives to meet the needs of the local community by offering resources and financial support to youth-oriented organizations, awarding nearly \$7.0 million to the greater Nashville community. Let us celebrate this announcement and commitment to helping those in need.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHEAL MAHONEY

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Micheal Mahoney of Kansas City. Micheal has been a reporter in the KC area for over 40 years, starting with breaking news, then making a career

into politics with a fair, but always tough sensibility.

I have known Mike for a few years now since coming to Congress, and to me, he has one of the best reputations among reporters in the region. The press and Congress are often thought of as adversaries, with journalists always trying to dig into Members to get the best scoop or “gotcha” moment, while Members are having to watch their backs. With Mike, that has never been the case. Sure, he would always try to dig, but that was simply to get the best possible info for Kansans, not just to put someone on the spot. Any time I had an interview with Mike, he truly was looking for the heart of a story, with no cheap tricks. He gave everyone involved a fair shot to tell their side and laid everything out crystal clear for viewers to see when the story came on. It is easy to see in each story what was really going on thanks to Mike's integrity in interviews, and talent for storytelling.

As he finishes out his time with KMBC, I hope he is able to reflect on the wonderful career he has had. He has been there to provide outstanding coverage of every political event in Kansas for all to see and even has an Emmy to his name for covering the 1993 flooding along the Missouri River, along with a Mall Dodson National Headliners Award in 1981 for his coverage of the Hyatt Regency Skywalk falling in KC. Furthermore, Mike has been on the board of the Kansas City St. Patrick's Day Committee and has even been the grand marshal for the St. Patrick's Day parade. Through it all, he has been one of KC's finest. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful career of Mr. Micheal Mahoney and wish him nothing but joy and happiness in his next chapter of life.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 897. An act to take certain lands in California into trust for the benefit of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1193. An act to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Director of the National Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, to establish a program under which the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall support or conduct research on valvular heart disease, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1667. An act to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

H.R. 2074. An act to assist Tribal governments in the management of buffalo and buffalo habitat and the reestablishment of buffalo on Indian land.

H.R. 2355. An act to facilitate responsible, informed dispensing of controlled substances and other prescribed medications, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2364. An act to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to provide for a public education campaign to raise public awareness of synthetic opioids.

H.R. 3531. An act to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3537. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3743. An act to increase funding for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration and for the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.

H.R. 3894. An act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue and disseminate guidance to States to clarify strategies to address social determinants of health under the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4489. An act to amend the Act of June 20, 1958, to require that certain amounts collected by the United States with respect to lands under the administration of the Forest Service be invested into interest bearing obligations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4555. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a public education campaign across all relevant programs of the Health Resources and Services Administration to increase oral health literacy and awareness.

H.R. 4616. An act to deem certain references to LIBOR as referring to a replacement benchmark rate upon the occurrence of certain events affecting LIBOR, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4706. An act to establish the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa, Texas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4996. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to prohibited acts by ocean common carriers or marine terminal operators, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5119. An act to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the coverage of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments to Tribal Governments.

H.R. 5290. An act to extend authorization for livestock mandatory reporting.

H.R. 5487. An act to improve research and data collection on stillbirths, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5545. An act to extend certain expiring provisions of law relating to benefits provided under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs during COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5551. An act to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5561. An act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5608. An act to support research and state management efforts on chronic wasting disease.

H.R. 5609. An act to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, to establish a cattle contract library, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5677. An act to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions classified to title 2, United States Code, title 50, United States Code, and title 52, United States Code.